

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA:PCHABIB :JNP

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

S/S - MR. LUERS

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R 221455Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231979

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT, VS

SUBJECT:BUI DIEM ON SOUTH VIETNAMESE INTERNAL POLITICS

1. AT LUNCH OCTOBER 21 BUI DIEM IN THE PRESENCE OF AMBASSADOR PHUONG TOLD HABIB THAT INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN RVN ALTHOUGH NOT YET GRAVE WAS REACHING TROUBLESOME POINT AND COULD DETERIORATE FURTHER. DIEM SAID HE HAD 2-1/2 HOUR PRIVATE TALK WITH PRESIDENT THIEU ON OCTOBER 8 DURING WHICH HE PRESENTED FRANK EXPOSE OF HIS VIEWS ON POLITICAL REQUIREMENTS. THESE INCLUDED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIEU'S MAKING SPECIAL EFFORT TO GAIN SUPPORT OF THOSE OPPONENTS WHO LIE AT THE CENTER OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. WHEREAS THERE WAS NOT MUCH THAT THIEU COULD DO WITH THE EXTREME LEFT AMONG HIS OPPOSITION, DIEM TOLD THIEU THAT AS A RESULT OF SOUNDINGS TAKEN AMONG POLITICAL FIGURES HE WAS CONVINCED THE CENTER GROUP COULD BE BROUGHT TO BACK THE GOVERNMENT.

2. DIEM ALSO CLAIMED TO HAVE TOLD THIEU OF THE NECESSITY TO GET RID OF NHA IN THE COURSE OF A FORTHCOMING CABINET RESHUFFLE. THIEU HAD SPOKEN OF SHIFTING CERTAIN CABINET POSTS BUT IN DIEM'S OPINION CHANGING A FEW TECHNOCRATS WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH AND WOULD NOT HAVE THE DESIRABLE POLITICAL MEANING UNLESS  
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NHA WAS RELIEVED OF HIS POSITION. ACCORDING TO DIEM,

THIEU LISTENED BUT REMAINED NON-COMMITTAL IN RESPONSE  
TO THESE SUGGESTIONS.

3. COMMENT: IT WAS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT DIEM AND PHUONG  
BOTH WERE ANXIOUS TO GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS THAT NHA  
MUST GO. HABIB MERELY LISTENED BUT DID NOT TAKE UP  
THEIR IMPLIED SUGGESTION THAT WE SHOULD JOIN THE FRAY.  
DIEM SAID HE HAD INTENDED TO REPORT ON HIS CONVERSATION  
WITH THIEU TO AMBASSADOR MARTIN BUT LEFT SAIGON  
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INTERVIEW AND THUS HAD NO TIME  
AVAILABLE. KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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